

should press strongly downward in the axis of the brim. The use of the forceps is often avoided by this manœuvre. Regarding the use of the forceps, the attitude of the practitioner should be one of constant watchfulness as labor progresses. When it is evident that the mother's powers are exhausted, delay should instantly cease, and the use of instruments be chosen.

In discussion upon this subject, the general drift of opinion was that during the first stage of labor the hot vaginal douche, the use of a narcotic to remove the inhibitory action of pain, and such assistance as change of posture would afford were all considered advisable. During the second stage, the cautious use of instruments was urged.

THE PROGNOSIS OF LABOR AND THE PUERPERAL CONDITION IN OLD PRIMIPARÆ UNDER ANTISEPTIC PRECAUTIONS.

ERDMANN (*Archiv für Gynäkologie*, Band xxxix. Heft 1) concludes from an extensive study of labor in old primiparæ that there is no definite limit, so far as age goes, by which to determine that a patient is, or is not, to be considered as an old primipara. It depends upon individual characteristics and not upon any especial age in month or years. At twenty-seven, the characteristics which are of practical importance in these cases are already present. The number of illegitimate births bears no relation to the age of the mother.

In the case of old primiparæ it is found that menstruation is usually deranged, producing a condition of anæmia and constitutional weakness. Such patients have, therefore, as a rule, a weaker constitution than young primiparæ. Contracted pelves are more frequent in these cases. Œdema and pernicious vomiting are not especially frequent. Eclampsia increases in frequency with a patient's age. Abnormal presentations and positions are also more common, especially breech presentations. The duration of labor increases in these patients, and inefficient labor-pains are common. Obstetric operations are more frequent and bear a close relation to the size of the pelvis, the rigidity of the soft parts, and the vigor of the pains. The mortality of the mothers in labor, when old primiparæ, has been reduced by the introduction of antiseptics to the usual rate. The procedure of incising the cervix and the walls of the birth-canal has resulted in lowering the mortality among children in these cases.

Thirty-six per cent. of all abortions in primiparæ are caused by syphilis, and 23 per cent. of all children perishing after the age of viability also die from syphilis. Uterine involution is slower in proportion with the patient's age. Febrile affections during the puerperal period are not more frequent with these patients than with others, a result obtained by the use of antiseptic precautions in labor.

THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BACILLI OF TYPHOID FROM MOTHER TO FŒTUS.

GIGLIO (*Centralblatt für Gynäkologie*, No. 46, 1890) contributes an interesting and thorough report of the examination of a fœtus and appendages in a case of typhoid fever occurring at Palermo. The expulsion of the fœtus occurred forty-six days after the beginning of the fever. The fœtus and placenta seemed absolutely normal. Upon macroscopic examination, no

pathological condition was discovered; microscopic examination of the blood was also negative. Bacterial culture of the maternal blood resulted in the production of a bacillus, cultures of which bore the marks of those of typhoid fever. When these cultures were compared with those made directly from typhoid material, it was found that both germinated after twenty-four hours, and that after four days points of difference in minute particulars could be detected, although the general resemblance was striking. Cultures made from the milk showed the presence of bacteria exactly resembling those obtained from a typhoid case not complicated by pregnancy. Upon potato, comparative culture-tests established the identity of the case in question with typhoid. A bacteriological examination of the fœtus and its appendages resulted in identifying bacilli found in the fœtus with the bacilli described by Eberth as indicating typhoid. The case is especially interesting from the thorough manner in which it has been studied, and the positive results obtained.

THE INDICATIONS FOR THE INDUCTION OF LABOR.

At the recent International Congress PARVIN (*Archiv für Gynäkologie*, Band xxxix. Heft 1) describes the indications for the induction of labor as, first, incoercible vomiting. In ten cases which he has collected which were so treated, in eight the mother recovered, and five living children were born. The mortality-rate was inconsiderable.

Other indications for the induction of labor were, diseases of the kidneys, heart disease, capillary bronchitis, pneumonia, œdema, and phthisis. In ten cases of phthisis, in six the mother recovered. In affections of the nervous system, namely, eclampsia, and meningitis, six cases out of nine recovered after the induction of labor. The most frequent indication, however, was abnormality of the pelvis; out of 988 cases of induction of labor, 870 were performed for this cause.

THE OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF ECLAMPSIA.

HALBERTSMA (*Ibid.*) has collected ten cases of eclampsia treated by Cæsarean section. Two of these cases perished, or 20 per cent. The average mortality, under treatment by narcotics and warm baths, in twenty cases, was 17 per cent. for the mothers and 77 for the children. Halbertsma urges in cases of eclampsia occurring at term, treatment by baths and narcotics until labor can go on. In cases where labor begins but is delayed, he would incise the cervix deeply, and deliver the patient. In severe cases, where some time must elapse before labor can occur, he would perform the Cæsarean operation. He would not allow a patient to perish undelivered.

THE PROGNOSIS OF PREGNANCY COMPLICATED BY TUMORS.

GORDES (*Centralblatt für Gynäkologie*, No. 45, 1890) gives an interesting account of sixteen cases of pregnancy complicated by abdominal tumors. In four, abortion followed, and removal by surgical treatment. In four, pregnancy was ended by amputation of the uterus, and once by Cæsarean section. Out of sixteen cases, four perished.